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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Note verbale dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 4, entitled "Economic, social and cultural rights".

* The annex is reproduced as received, in Arabic and English only.

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Annex

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Chairman,

The worldwide concern that has been shown for the question of globalization during the last 10 years is possibly greater than that shown for any other issue at the international level. The protests staged against globalization in Seattle in 1999 and more recently in Genoa during the summit of the eight industrialized countries highlighted the multifaceted aspect of globalization and its potential impact on a wide range of social, economic, cultural and political relations and, in particular, on the promotion and protection of human rights.

Through the modern liberal policies on which it is based, globalization paints a bleak picture of the future. After a century in which socialist and democratic concepts and the principles of social justice predominated, a countermovement that is currently appearing on the horizon is undermining all the achievements made by the working and middle classes. Increasing unemployment, reduced wages, deteriorating standards of living, the lesser role that Governments are playing in the social security provided by the State, as well as the free rein that is being given to market mechanisms and the increasing disparity in the distribution of income, are among the most outstanding features that will characterize socio-economic life in most countries of the world in the age of globalization.

The challenges posed by globalization include a threat to the cultural identity of peoples through the modern communication media owned by the developed countries which are calling for the globalization of social values. This will obviously undermine the values of peoples by establishing a new system of Western standards based on the sociocultural environment to which they belong. In this way, globalization will eliminate the national borders of States and the cultures of peoples, particularly since it is those who own the modern means of communication who will impose their culture and values on others.

Mr. Chairman,

Human rights cannot develop in politically and economically unstable conditions. Insofar as globalization implies free trade, market liberalization, the removal of obstacles and barriers to the movement of capital, the imposition of structural adjustment programmes and privatization and increasing disparities between the rich and the poor, it will entail a deterioration in the socio-economic situation and the transfer of the economic sovereignty of States to dominant international economic institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and transnational corporations.

Taking an objective view of the present situation, we can say that the only available option to counter the challenges posed by globalization consists in joint endeavours to establish regional groupings that will ensure cooperation among their member States in economic and political fields in order to maintain the international balance and achieve peace, progress and freedom from the dependence and hegemony that globalization advocates.